

1. (Currently Amended) Method for characterizing the state of a neoplastic disease in a subject, comprising
  - ~~a.~~ i. determining the pattern of expression levels of at least 6, 8, 10, 15, 20, 30, or 47 marker genes, wherein said marker genes comprise SEQ ID NO: 51, SEQ ID NO: 87, SEQ ID NO: 159, and SEQ ID NO: 477, in a biological sample from said subject,
  - ~~b.~~ ii. comparing the pattern of expression levels determined in (i) with one or several reference pattern(s) of expression levels,
  - ~~c.~~ iii. characterizing the state of said neoplastic disease in said subject from the outcome of the comparison in step (ii).
2. Canceled.
- ~~3.~~ (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein Method for detection, diagnosis, screening, monitoring, and/or prognosis of a neoplastic disease in a subject, comprising
  - ~~a.~~ determining the pattern of expression levels of at least 1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 15, 20, 30, or 47 marker genes wherein said marker genes comprise SEQ ID NO: 51, SEQ ID NO: 87, SEQ ID NO: 159, and SEQ ID NO: 477, in biological samples from said subject,
  - ~~b.~~ comparing the pattern of expression levels determined in (i) with one or several reference pattern(s) of expression levels,
  - ~~c.~~ said characterizing comprises detecting, diagnosing, screening, monitoring, and/or prognosing said neoplastic disease in said subject from the outcome of the comparison in step (ii).
4. Canceled

5. (Previously Presented) Method of claim 1 or 3, wherein said method comprises multiple determinations of a pattern of expression levels, at different points in time, thereby allowing to monitor the development of said neoplastic disease in said subject.
6. (Previously Presented) Method of claim 1 or 3, wherein said method comprises an estimation of the likelihood of success of a given mode of treatment for said neoplastic disease in said subject.
7. (Previously Presented) Method of claim 1 or 3, wherein said method comprises an assessment of whether or not the subject is expected to respond to a given mode of treatment for said neoplastic disease.
8. (Previously Presented) Method of claim 6, wherein a predictive algorithm is used.
9. (Original) Method of claim 8, wherein the predictive algorithm is a Support Vector Machine.
10. - 15. Canceled
16. (Previously Presented) Method of claims 1 or 3 further comprising additional marker genes listed in Table 2.
17. Canceled
18. (Previously Presented) Method of claims 1 or 3, wherein the neoplastic disease is breast cancer.
19. (Previously Presented) A kit comprising at least 6, 8, 10, 15, 20, 30, or 47 primer pairs and probes suitable for marker genes comprised in a group of marker genes comprising SEQ ID NO: 51, SEQ ID NO: 87, SEQ ID NO: 159, and SEQ ID NO: 477 and further comprising additional marker genes wherein the additional marker genes are listed in Table 2.
20. - 24. Canceled